

# Third Advent

## Darkness to Light

How Will We Know What's Next?



Grace Mennonite Church

December 17, 2023

Vol. 62 No 51

# Order of Service

Welcome, Life of the Congregation & Land Acknowledgement

**Thy Word Is a Lamp** VT #398

## Lament

Call to Worship

**Longing for Light** VT #715

[Psalm 137:1-4](#)

Sharing – Vi Brown

**Special Music – We Come**

Prayer of Longing

## Hope

**Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming** VT #216 (vs 3)

[Matthew 1:18-25](#) (Heather Bergman and Otto Goertzen)

Candle Liturgy

Children's Church Choir

Time with the Children

(Children ages 3 through grade 8 may leave for Children's Church)

[1 Thessalonians 5:16-24](#)

Sharing – Betty Koop

Prayer of Hope

**Special Music – I Won't Be Frightened Any More**

(Rose Dupuis, Nathan Dyck, David Graham, Adrielle Jodoin, Scott Jodoin)

**How Will We Know What's Next? ...  
By Being Together**

Congregational Prayer & Offertory

**O Little Town of Bethlehem** VT #245

Benediction



# Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**9:00 am - Sisters of Grace** – all women are invited to a time of reading, sharing and prayer together.

**10:00 am – Worship Service**

Livestream will be available between 10-11 am.

Audio recording can be accessed on the church website after the service.

**Children’s Church** for ages 3 to Grade 8 will be held during the service today, then will resume regular classes on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

You may pick up your children following the worship service from the upper level classrooms.

All are welcome to stay for coffee.

**Little Bits of Grace PIZZA Lunch!!!**

**Who:** Families/caregivers with children under 5 years of age (and their siblings of course)

**Time:** right after church

We are looking forward to getting to know you all a *little bits* more!



Worship Leader	Patrick Friesen
Worship Speaker	Mel Letkeman
Ushers	Kurt Barz, Shannon Gerbrandt
Musicians	Shara Dueck, Rachel Dyck David Graham, Adrielle Jodoin, Darren Reimer
Children’s Church	Alisa Harder, Kate Hiebert, Anika Klassen Arianna Penner, Bonny Peters, Mark Rempel, Tom Wiebe
Coffee Servers	Karen Toews, Rod Thiessen
Technicians	Curtis Kulpa, Tim Schmitt

## We Pray Together

We pray for those dealing with ongoing medical concerns – **Regon Barkman, Gord Bartel, Vi Brown, Raelyn Dick, Laurie Kroeker, and Matt Rogalsky.**

**Laurie Wiens** began cancer treatments this past week.  
Pray for her, Arthur and their family.

**Prayer for the week:** Lord, show us the significance of gathering together so as to know You and each other.

**Prayer for the world:** Lord, we continue to pray for those trying to escape the fighting in Gaza.

## This Week at Grace ❖ Dec 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Soup's On</b> - Lunch Program preparation @ 9 am
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Soup's On</b> - Dine in lower auditorium, 5-6:15 pm <b>Choir Practice</b> – 8 pm in the sanctuary
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Longest Night Service</b> - 7 pm
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Soup's On</b> - Dine in lower auditorium, 5-6:15 pm

Our interim pastor, **Kathy Koop**, will be starting on January 1<sup>st</sup>. She will be our pastor for a minimum of 12 months, up to 18 months (depending on the outcome of our pastoral search process). We have hired her to work 0.8 FTE (full-time equivalent), and she will be driving in from Winnipeg. She will be in the office Tuesdays and Thursdays, and will be working from home on Wednesdays. She will be taking Mondays and Fridays off. You can reach her via email at [kathy@gracesteinbach.ca](mailto:kathy@gracesteinbach.ca), or on her cell @ (204) 794-5554 when she's working from home. If you have any questions, feel free to be in touch with Church Council.

Kyle Penner will be on vacation from December 23 thru January 7, 2024.  
The church office will be closed December 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.



### Giving to Grace Mennonite Church

To support Grace, point your smartphone camera at this QR code or visit: [gracesteinbach.ca/donation/](https://gracesteinbach.ca/donation/)

Pastor	Mel Letkeman	<a href="mailto:mel@gracesteinbach.ca">mel@gracesteinbach.ca</a>
Pastor	Kyle Penner	<a href="mailto:kyle@gracesteinbach.ca">kyle@gracesteinbach.ca</a>
Grace Office		<a href="mailto:office@gracesteinbach.ca">office@gracesteinbach.ca</a>
Admin Assistant	Nina Pauls	<a href="mailto:nina@gracesteinbach.ca">nina@gracesteinbach.ca</a>

Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
[www.gracesteinbach.ca](https://www.gracesteinbach.ca)



### **Financial Update:**

2023 Budgeted Giving	\$ 469.550
Actual General Donations till end of November	<u>364,448</u>
	\$ 105,102
Other non-designated gifts	31,000
Auction Proceeds	<u>43,000</u>
2023 Shortfall with 2 weeks remaining	<u>\$ 31,102</u>

Year-to-date expenses are tracking the budgeted expenses very closely.

### ***Save the Date!***

Sunday January 14, 2024 we will be officially celebrating Kathy Koop's Installation Service here at Grace.

Please come and join us to officially welcome her here!

### **Advent and Christmas Calendar**

#### **December 21<sup>st</sup> – Longest Night Service @ 7 pm**

For many, the joy and celebration of Christmas is overshadowed by the pain of personal circumstance. The long nights before Christmas symbolize the real darkness that exists in our lives and the world. Join our community for a quiet, meditative service of remembrance and concern.

#### **December 24<sup>th</sup> – 4th Advent Worship Service @ 10 am**

**"News of Great Joy!" @ 6:30 pm**

Offertory this evening will be going to MCC and the relief work they are doing with Canadian Foodgrains Bank in Gaza.

#### **December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Morning Worship @ 10 am**

Please bring any spare Christmas baking to share with one another after the service.





### **Advent Giving Project:**

In this season Advent, we want to remember those in our community who face difficult circumstances and are unable to provide healthy nourishing lunches for their children in school.

The school lunch program being run by Soups On, here at Grace, is experiencing increasing demands for school lunches. For the next 4 Sundays of Advent, we ask you to bring one or more of the items on the list of School Lunch Program needs.

As the children come forward for their time with the puppets, they will be coming to us in our seats to collect the items that we bring to help build a mountain of supplies needed for the school lunches.

#### **School Lunch Program Needs:**

- ◆ Fruit to go
- ◆ Cookies – Dad's (individually wrapped)
- ◆ Rice Krispies treats (individually wrapped)
- ◆ Fruit sauces - mostly apple
- ◆ NUT FREE Granola bars- regular with chocolate chips (not chocolate covered)
- ◆ Gummies- Welch's or Sunkist- individual packages
- ◆ Pudding- snack packs in either chocolate or vanilla
- ◆ Fish crackers - in boxes
- ◆ Fruit cups- peaches
- ◆ Spoons- plastic- teaspoons
- ◆ Miracle Whip – 500 gram
- ◆ Peanut butter - Kraft 500 gram
- ◆ Jam - strawberry - 500 ml

